1850 Pisgah Church

ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER, 19, 1850.

The Delegates from the churches, visiting ministers and a large number of brethren and friends, met at Pisgah Meeting-House, Perry county, Alabama, being the Thirty-third Anniversary Meeting of the Cahawba Association. The Introductory Discourse was delivered by Elder J. H. DeVotie, from Isiah, 60th chapter and last verse.

After Preaching, the delegates assembled at the Meeting House. Elder A. G. McCraw, the former Moderator, being present, presided until the election of a Moderator.

The Association was opened with prayer by Elder A. G. McCraw.

Elected A. G. McCRAW, Moderator, and WM. S. MIREE, Clerk.

Messengers from other Associations and visiting ministers, were invited to seats, and upon motion, Elder G. B. Davis, Agent for Indian Missions was invited to a seat with us.

Correspondence from sister Associations was called for, and extended the hand of fellowship to their representatives and cordially invited them to seats with us.

Letters from the churches were then presented and read, delegates names enrolled and referred to the committee on documents.

The standing committees were appointed, viz:

On Preaching.—Elder John S. Ford, the Pastor, and Wm. A. Melton, and Drury S. Boyd, Deacons of Pisgah church, with Brethren E. D. King, George Hopper and C. C. Huckabee.

On the Order of Business.—Elders John E. Simmers, John Sansing and Bro. Jacob Kynerd, and on motion, the Moderator and Clerk were added.

On Domestic Missions.—Elders R. Holman, John Dennis, H. P. Griffin and Jabez Brassel.

On Foreign Missions.—Elders J. H. DeVotie, and Brethren J. R. Hendon, J. G. Huckabee, E. C. Norris.

On Finance.—Brethren Wm. N. Wyatt, Jesse Hollifield, Willis Nunnelly, John Y. Jackson.

On Education.—Elders T. F. Curtis, R. Holman, J. H. DeVotie, and Brethren E. D. King, Wm. N. Wyatt, C. C. Huckabee, A. L. Brame, Wm. S. Miree.

On Temperance.—Brethren C. C. Huckabee, Wm. Muckle, Wm. A. Melton, W. Milton, A. L. Brame.

On the Southern Baptist Publication Society.—Elders John S. Ford, T. F. Curtis, John Dennis, and Bro. J. W. Crenshaw.

On the Bible Cause.—Elder R. Holman, J. J. Haggard, Brethren Jacob Kynerd, Wm. B. Lawson.

On Indian Missions.—Brethren J. R. Hendon, Luke Smith and Elders Noah Haggard, J. H. DeVotie.

On Sabbath Schools.—Elders R. Graham, John Sansing, and Brethren James Mason, Wm. Eddings.

On Letters and Corresponding Documents.—Elders J. H. DeVotie, John Dennis, R. Holman, T. F. Curtis, Noah Haggard, and Brethren B. P. Hill, Joseph A Blakey.

Opened the doors for the reception of churches, there being no application.

Upon application by letter and through her delegates, Canaan church was dismissed from us.

The committee to arrange preaching on Sabbath, made the following report, viz: Elder R. Holman to preach the Missionary Sermon, half past ten o'clock, A. M. After half hour's recess, Elder T. F. Curtis to preach a sermon preparatory to the administration of the Lord's Supper, and that Elders John Dennis and A. G. McCraw officiate at the table.

On motion, it was unanimously agreed, to comply with the request of the members of Pisgah church to commune with them on Sabbath.

Adjourned until Monday morning, 9 o'clock, A. M. Prayer by Elder T. F. Curtis.

SABBATH, October 20, 1850.

Pursuant to arrangement, Elder R. Holman preached on the subject of Missions, which was responded to by the audience, by casting into the treasury of the Lord, quite as freely as could have been expected. After half an hour's recess, Elder T. F. Curtis delivered an appropriate discourse preparatory to the celebration of the Lord's Supper, quite to the satisfaction of the audience; after which, the Sacrament of the Supper was administered to three or four hundred communicants, by Elders John Dennis and A. G. McCraw. The day was truly, profitably and pleasantly spent; and no doubt that its privileges and benefits will he had in remembrance in the great day of Eternity.

MONDAY, October 21.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by Elder Noah Haggard.

Called for the report of Committee of Arrangement, read, received and committee discharged.

Then proceeded to call the names of Delegates and marked absentees.

First District Represented as follows:

Counties.	Churches.	Delegates.
Bibb.	Bethel,	Brethren James Mason, and Benj. Little.
"	Mount Gilead,	Breth. Jos. A. Blakey, Thos. L. Stewart and Wm. Edmonds.
"	Mount Zion,	Elder H. P. Griffin, and Br. Jacob Lightsly and Thos. Blakey.
Perry.	Hepsabah,	Breth. Jno. C. Veedle, Jas. W. Cranford.
"	Pisgah,	Elder Jabez Brassel, and Breth. Wm. A. Melton, Rich'd Farrar, G. W. Blakey, W. S. Miree.
"	Pilgrim's Rest,	Breth. Jas. W. McCullough, Wm. M. McCullough, Absolom Ford,
"	Friendship,	Breth. Jas. Griffin and John McFarlin.
Bibb.	Cahawba Valley,	Elders Noah Haggard, J. J. Haggard, C. F. Clabough, and Bro. L. T. McGuire.

Second District Represented as follows:

Counties.	Churches.	Delegates.
Perry.	Concord,	Elder John Sansing, and Breth. Wm. Muckle Geo. W. Waters, Benj. F. Boling and E. G Lankford.
Perry.	Oakmulgee,	Elder A. G. McCraw, and Breth. Geo. Hopper, Solomon Smith. J. J. W. Crow, C. C. Smith, Leonard Butler.
Perry,	Providence,	Breth. Thos. Turnbow, J. W. Crenshaw, A. L. Brame.
Perry,	Shiloh,	Breth. Isaac Oakes, John Y. Jackson, Jesse M. Heard, Thos. A. Heard, Seth B. Ford.
Perry,	Fellowship,	Breth. J. S. Eaves, S. T. Letcher.
Dallas,	Selma,	Elder C. M. Breaker, and Bro. W. Milton.
Dallas,	Salem,	
Perry,	Mt. Eden,	Breth. J. Kynerd, Z. Melton Geo. R. Smith.
Dallas,	Liberty,	Elder John Dennis, and Bro. Willis Nunnelly.
Perry,	Canaan,	Breth. J. M. Mitchell and J. Shearer.
Perry,	Pine Flat,	

Third District Represented as follows:

Counties.	Churches.	Delegates.
Perry,	Fellowship, B. Cr'k.	Br. Luke Smith, Elias Trammel, Jesse Hollfield, Allen A. Smith, Thos. Curb, Robt. Carter.
Perry,	Hopewell,	Breth. S. B. Pleasants, Jesse M. Cole
Perry,	Siloam,	Elders R. Holman, T. F. Curtis, J. H. DeVotie, R. Graham, and Breth. E. D. King, Wm. N. Wyatt, Wm. Lawson, J. A. Melcher.
Perry,	Union,	Bro. Samuel Richardson,
Perry,	Mount Pleasant,	Elder J. S. Ford, and Breth. David C. Kynerd, Mark Phillips.
Perry,	Sardis,	Breth. Sion Tubb, Wm. Sanders, John Huey.
Greene,	Antioch,	Breth. B. P. Hill, F. G. Stark, Wm. R. Pool.
Mobile,	St. Francis Street.	Elders R. Holman, T. F Curtis.
Mobile,	African Bap. Ch.	Elders R. Holman, T. F. Curtis.

Fourth District Represented as follows:

COUNTIES.	CHURCHES.	DELEGATES.
Greene,	Salem,	
Tuscaloosa	Mount Pleasant,	Br. G. H. Sheldon, W. A. Bishop, E. C. Norris.
Greene,	Bethsiada,	Breth. Joseph Freeman, W. P. Hutchings.
Greene,	Bethell,	Bro. B. P. Ferrel.
Greene,	Mount Hebron,	Breth. R. Y. Wood, E. W. Davis.
Perry,	New Hope,	Eld. J. E. Sumners, and Bro. Joseph Hopson.
Greene,	Newbern,	Breth. C. C. Huckabee, J. G. Huckebee, and J. R. Hendon.

Returned Correspondence as will be seen by Table of Correspondence: *To the Alabama Association.*—Elder R. Holman, J. H. DeVotie; *To the Tuskaloosa Association.*—Elders Noah Haggard, J. E. Sumners, J. J. Haggard. John Sansing, and Bro, B, P. Hill; *To the Bethel Association.*—Elders R. Holman, J. H. DeVotie; *To the Mulbury Association.*—Elders John Sansing, John E. Sumners, C. F. Clabough, H. P. Griffin; *To the Union Association.*—Elder John Dennis, Brethren E. C. Norris, F. G. Stark; *To the Columbus Association.*—Elders T. F. Curtis, R. Graham, and Bro. Wm. B. Lawson; *To the Bethlehem Association.*—Elders T. F. Curtis and R. Holman.

Called for the Report on Education; read, adopted and committee discharged. [Appendix A.]

On motion, the general business was suspended, to take up a collection for Bro. Howard, Benificiary of Howard College.—Amount collected, fifty-five dollars and thirty-five cents, and Bro. Wm. B. Lawson agreed to give two months board, viz: one to Bro. Howard, and one to Bro. Wilkes.

Called for the Report on Domestic Missions; read, adopted and committee discharged. [Appendix B.]

Called for the Report on Foreign Missions; read, adopted and committee discharged. [Appendix C.]

Called for the Report on Letters and Documents; read, adopted and committee discharged. [Appendix D.]

Called for the Report on the Southern Bap. Publication Society; read, adopted and committee discharged. [Appendix E.]

Called for the Report on Sunday Schools; read, adopted and committee discharged.]Appendix F.]

Upon the reception of the above report, it was agreed to send ten delegates to the Sunday School Union Association. The following Brethren were appointed: J H. DeVotie, J. S. Ford, W. A. Melton, R. Holman, W. N. Wyatt, C. C. Huckabee, John Dennis, C. M. Breaker, and A. G. McCraw. Due notice will be given of the time and place of said meeting.

Called for the Report on the Bible Cause; read, adopted and committee discharged. [Appendix G.]

On motion, the general business was suspended for the purpose of soliciting contributions. It was responded to by the brethren. The amount contributed, sixty dollars, for which the Moderator,

on motion, invoked the blessing of God upon the contribution.

Called for the Report on Temperance; read, adopted and committee discharged. [Appendix H.]

Called for the Report on Indian Missions; read, adopted and committee discharged. [Appendix I.]

On motion, again suspended the general business, for the purpose of soliciting contributions in aid of Indian Missions, which was responded to by the brethren. The amount contributed was ninety-four dollars and ten cents.

Called for the Report on Finance; read, adopted and committee discharged. [Appendix K.] Treasurer's Report under same head.

Resolved, That the next session of this Association be held with the Fellowship church, (Brush Creek,) commencing Saturday before the third Lord's day in October, 1851.

C. C. Huckabee, Wm. Muckle and J. R. Hendon were appointed a committee to nominate the preachers of the next anniversary sermons.

The committee on nominations reported: Elder C. F. Sturgis to preach the Introductory; Elder A. G. McCraw, Alternate, and Elder T. F. Curtis preach the Missionary Sermon, and Elder Thos. Chilton, Alternate.

Resolved That the amount sent up for Bible Cause, be paid over to the Alabama Bible Society.

Resolved, That the amount sent up for Foreign and Domestic Missions, be paid over to the Alabama Baptist State Convention. The amount for Indian Missions be paid by the Treasurer to Elder G. B. Davis, Agent for Indian Missions.

Instructed the Treasurer to appropriate fifty two dollars for Minutes, and that the Clerk be paid twenty dollars for superintending the printing of the same.

Resolved, That the Treasurer be instructed, after deducting the amounts already appropriated, to send the ballance of the funds in his hands through the Alabama Baptist State Convention, to be equally divided between the Foreign and Domestic Mission Boards.

Resolved, That the Treasurer be instructed to pay out the amount raised for Bro. Howard as necessity requires.

Upon motion Bro. Wm. N. Wyatt was unanimously appointed Treasurer for the ensuing Associational year.

Upon motion proceeded to appoint delegates to the Alabama Baptist State Convention, to convene with Marion Church, Perry county, Saturday before the first Lord's day in November next. Whereupon the following brethren were appointed: Elders John Dennis, John Sansing, H. P. Griffin, Noah Haggard, John E. Sumners, and Brethren Jesse M. Cole, J. G. Huckabee, Wm. Muckle, John R. Hendon and Luke Smith.

Resolved, That we recommend to the churches to state on their letters to the Association what amounts have been paid by them during the year for the several benevolent objects favored by this body.

Resolved, That the amount of collections taken up on Sabbath at the As-

sociations hereafter, shall be equally divided between Domestic, Indian and Foreign Missions.

Resolved, That any member of this Association presenting a copy of these Minutes to any other Association with whom we correspond, shall be an authorized delegate of this body.

Resolved, That this Association request the churches in reporting their statistics to state the number of white male members, and white female members, and colored members distinctly and separately.

Resolved, That the Chairman of Committees hereafter shall be appointed on Domestic, Indian and Foreign Missions, Temperance, Sabbath Schools, Education, Bible cause and Southern Baptist Publication Society, and be required to report at the meeting of this body, succeeding the time of their appointment. And no report shall be spread upon the Minutes that exceeds one and a half pages; and it is desirable that no one report exceed one page, and if the Chairman of either of the above named Committees fail to attend the next Annual Meeting of the Cahawba Association that he be requested to send his report.

Whereupon the Moderator appointed on Education, Elder Thos. G. Keen; on Domestic Missions, Elder R. Holman, on Foreign Missions, Elder T. F. Curtis; on Indian Missions, Elder Thos. Chilton, on the Bible cause, Elder J. H. De Votie; on Sunday Schools, Elder C. M. Breaker; on Temperance, Elder John S. Ford; on Publication Society, Bro. C. C. Huckabee.

Resolved, That we thank Almighty God for having given us brethren and friends within the bounds of Pisgah church, who have so generously and kindly entertained this Association.

Brethren De Votie, J. S. Ford and Holman were appointed a committee to prepare a corresponding letter to sister Associations.

The Association having disposed of all the business before them adjourned to meet again with the Followship church, (Brush Creek.) Perry county, Saturday before the third Sabbath in October, 1851.

CONCLUDING ARTICLE.

The Session of this Association adjourned, and in conclusion sung a hymn with tears, and extended to each other the parting hand and parting embrace, with joyful hopes that if they should not meet any more in such heavenly places in this world that we would meet again in that world of peace where sighing and parting will be no more. Prayer by Elder John Dennis.

A. G. McCRAW, *Moderator*.

Wm. S. Miree, *Clerk*.

APPENDIX.

[A.]

Report of the Committee on Education.

Intellectual education, without proportionate moral cultivation and religious instruction, is always attended with danger, and very often leads to destruction.

Those parents who are truly pious, will perceive that any system of education for the young that omits religion, is essentially defective and must prove a failure.

A youth may be highly educated and yet grow up to be a sensualist, or a swindler, and break a parent's heart. *Education founded on a religious basis, is the great want of the age.* This can only be done by denominations, they being the only organized religious bodies at all adapted to the work. As Baptists, our great numbers make it eminently our duty to do this, and enable us to carry it into effect with the greatest certainty of success. As an Association, we have a solemn responsibility resting on us to keep this in view, both because our State Denominational Institutions are located within our own limits, and also because it is expressly provided, in regard to one of these, (the Judson Institute,) that should the State Convention ever be dissolved, the solemn trust involved in the possession of the property of that Institution, shall devolve on this Association.

This is a self-supporting institution. It requires no pecuniary aid, and asks only our prayers and patronage, that it may continue to be of the eminent service to the cause of education, of our denomination and of Christ, which it has thus far been, through the blessing of God, and the judicious religious instructions of the Principal. Five or six of the young ladies have within the last Associational year, become connected with one of the churches of the Association.

Howard College has been equally blessed in this respect. Indeed, nine or ten of its members have, within a few months, professed to pass from death unto life, and at this time, far the larger number of the students in the advanced department, are professors of religion. Apart even from what it has done and is doing for the rising ministry, it has, under the very able management of President Sherman accomplished more as a Denominational College of Education, than could possibly have been anticipated. And yet, if this Institution were supported by the united efforts and prayers of the Baptists of the State and should they earnestly cluster around, it might easily be made of ten fold greater value to our denomination, and in fact to every Baptist parent.

We believe the time for this has now arrived, that by a judicious, concentrated, and earnest effort, the whole strength of the denomination can be completely enlisted and united in this enterprise. Efforts should at once be made to secure to the Holy work of religious education through the means of this Institution, the co-operation of the highest wisdom and ripest experience of the State, the affections of every section, and an endowment adequate to carry on this work in a becoming and liberal spirit. Perhaps there are individuals whom the Lord has blessed with wealth, who may feel it the noblest legacy they can leave their families, or endow Professorships in their own names, thus to distant ages and when all other property has changed hands and cannot be identified, securing to their families the richest of all inheritances, the remmembrance of a noble deed, doing the world and the denomination good as long as time shall last. We believe that Churches and Associations should do what they can to further the work, and could the whole of what has been alluded to, be carried out, we are convinced that $100,000 easily could and at once ought to be raised for an endowment; and when it can be ascertained, to our satisfaction, either through the Convention or otherwise, that the Churches and Associations generally are

ready to engage in this work, we will be ready fairly to do our full proportion of this sum, and if it is thought best, we will ourselves put an agent in the field to raise whatever of it belongs to us.

Nor must the important bearing of this subject on *Ministerial Education* be overlooked. In this Institution, within the past year, twelve young brethren have been studying Divine truth, with a direct view to increase their usefulness in the Christian ministry. Some of them have been reading the Holy Scriptures in the languages, in which they were originally inspired of God. Others systematically contemplating the great doctrines of revelation as set forth in the Confessions of Faith of this and other Associations. Others have been in various ways preparing more clearly and usefully to "preach the word."

Not that education *makes* ministers. Indeed, that idea is so far from being fostered by this Institution that every young man before he can be admitted as a student preparing for the ministry, must not only satisfy the Board of the Convention of his call of God, but produce a recommendation from his church, approving of his purpose, believing him called to prepare for the work. This puts all the power where it ought to rest, in the hands of the churches, which are independent bodies.

But education can and does greatly add to the usefulness of Holy Ministers of Jesus Christ. Who would suppose that a minister could not preach better for being able to read his Bible? Why then should we doubt that education makes ministers more useful?

The labors of several of those now studying at Marion, during the intervals of study on the Sabbath, both in preaching and exhortation, have been signally blessed in promoting revivals of religion. Churches have been constituted through their labors, divisions healed and numbers have professed conversion, affording thus the best reason to hope that they are called of God to this work. The education of these brethren is without charge. But the expense of their *Board* frequently devolves on the Convention. This can only be met by contributions from the Associations and Churches, from year to year. A single case might be mentioned as an example where a minister, by no means wealthy, has formed such a hope of the future usefulness of one brother, that he himself, pays half his board. We believe those expectations will not be disappointed, and close by offering the following resolution:

Resolved, That this Association do now suspend the usual businesss, for a few minutes, while an effort is made to raise a sufficient sum to pay the other half of the board of the brother above alluded to, for one year.

T. F. CURTIS, Chairman.

[B]

Report on Domestic Missions

Your Committee submit the following as their Report:

I. The Field. It embraces the slaveholding States; 14 in number—namely: Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. This field contains a population of about ten millions. The daily increase is about 700, or 255,500 annually. Nearly one-third of this population are colored. The newly acquired territory adds to our field, and increases our responsibilities.

II. The Destitution of this Field. Were all our preachers devoted to the work of the ministry, and distributed equally over the whole field, there would be only one Baptist minister to 3046 persons; and were our churches thus uniformly distributed, there would be one church only to 2061 persons. A large number of ministers are devoting a portion, or the whole, of their time to other work. And those who are given to the ministry of the Word are very unequally distributed over the field. Consequently large sections are entirely destitute. Many places do not receive a visit from a minister of the Gospel for many consecutve, years. Not a few persons of mature years have never seen a minister of Christ and are as ignorant of the plan of salvation as are the Heathen. This destitution is daily increasing, as the increase of population exceeds the efforts to spread the Gospel. The field is not only destitute of the Gospel, but it is infested with

ruinous errors of almost every form. Of these Romanism is among the most thrifty and formidable. Its steady and fixed aim is universal dominion—spiritual and temporal. It pursues its object with perseverance and energy. Its method is cunning-craftiness and deceit. Its instruments are employed without scruple or pity. Stern and inflexible in every feature, it yields nothing—concedes nothing. It claims infallibility and admits no change. What it is in history it is now in spirit, and will be in action as it obtains power. Having lost its strong hold in other countries, it is making desperate efforts to establish itself in this.

III. The Object of the Board. That our country may be secure, every town and neighborhood must be supplied with an evangelical ministry, and every family with the Bible. This is the object of the Board: This they are doing as fast as means are supplied; by aiding churches too feeble to sustain their minister; by sending the preacher where the name of Christ is not known; by establishing Sabbath Schools and kindred institutions. Especially is it the aim of the Board to preach the Gospel to the colored people. Their efforts in this department have been peculiarly blessed.

IV. The means requisite. The institutions of the Gospel cannot be sustained without money. If men are sent to preach the Gospel to the poor, they must be supported. This money must be raised by the free-will offering of those who know the blessedness of the Gospel. It is expected that every friend of Jesus is a friend to the poor. This friendship should be manifested by sending the Gospel of Jesus to the poor. A sum equal to ten cents annually, from each member, would enable the Board to employ 200 Missionaries. Cannot this be raised immediately?

V. Plan of raising Funds. We need a plan which will reach every member of the church, rich and poor, male and female, white and colored; and that shall be adapted to the circumstances of all. The Holy Spirit has furnished one which precisely meets the case. It is recorded, 1 Cor. 16, 2: *Upon the first day of the week, let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him.*" This plan reaches all. "Let *every one* of you lay by him in store." There is no exception. The measure of this contribution is also adjusted. "As God hath prospered him." How just and reasonable! The poor need not be ashamed to cast in their "two mites" because it is not equal to the abundance of the rich. The rich are not allowed to measure their duty by the ability of the poor; but by their own prosperity. This plan requires a regular and stated contribution. "Upon the first day of the week." Some men's business is such that a weekly estimate cannot be made of their income. In such cases the spirit of the law will, doubtless, be regarded if such stated periods are honestly and conscientiously observed as are adapted to their peculiar calling—whether weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually: as some receive their income at these several periods. *The law requires some form of stated, systematic action.*

This plan is simple, just, and of universal adaptation. It is of Divine origin, and enforced by Divine authority. Why not adodt it? Why seek any other? The beauty of it is, that while it lays an *obligation* on "*every one*," it leaves all to act with entire freedom; and thus developes both the honesty and benevolence of all. "For the Lord loveth a cheerful giver." He has not stated the amount in dollars and cents, which each one shall contribute. This would be a tax which might be paid without any benevolent feeling towards the object for which it was contributed, or love to Him who requires it. The general law is, "let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." But God has left it to every one, "as he purposeth in his heart," how much of his income he will give.

Your Committee recommend that, as none are too poor to pay ten cents annually for this object, each member, male and female, white and colored, be solicited to contribute ten cents, or more, annually, to this object. This will not prevent the rich, as well as the poor, from giving as God has prospered them. Neither does it prevent any from giving oftener.

Your Committee further recommend that, each church appoint a committee of two, or more, prudent and active members to visit all for the purpose of soliciting these contributions. When the time and circumstances of the pastor will allow it, he should be a member of this committee. The town and neighborhood where

the members reside may be divided into districts for the convenience of the committee; one district being assigned to each collector, who should be furnished with the names of all the church members residing in his district. Sometimes females may compose a part of this committee.

Were all the objects of benevolence, claiming the support of the churches, entrusted to this committee and like contributions solicited for each, the amount of funds would be greatly increased and the necessity of agents, in part removed.— In such an arrangement a card, or subscription paper, should be prepared with separate columns, adapted to the several objects of benevolence which the church sustains.

The donors must select their own channel of communication with the Board of Domestic Missions. Either send direct to Marion, or to their own Association, and from thence to the State Convention. When sent directly to the Board, or paid to an agent, the sum can be reported to the association and appear in the minutes of that body.

In these remarks there is no intention to undervalue the importance of other benevolent enterprises. But in view of the immense influx of Foreign imigration of the extreme destitution of many portions of this field, and of the demand that our negroes have upon us for the Gospel, your committee consider that our own country has the first claim upon our sympathies, contributions and prayers.

Therefore the churches are earnestly requested to adopt the foregoing plan unless they have one that they deem better. The Board need the funds. It will secure a larger amount than is now realized. It is adapted to every variety of pecuniary ability. It will secure a general action and interest in the cause of benevolence. It will in a great measure, if generally adopted, supersede the work of collecting agents. These are objects of importance ; to secure which every Christian should most devoutly pray, and vigorously labor.

R. HOLMAN, Chairman.

]C.]

Report of the Committee on Foreign Missions.

About fifiy years ago Carey uttered these memorable words, "Attempt great things for God, expect great things from God." He with a few kindred spirits were awake to their duty to the perishing heathen, and the modern missionary enterprise was commenced with the purpose never to cease from labor until every human being had listened to the "glorious Gospel of the blessed God."

With untiring zeal, and energy, the various denominations of Christian deciples have advanced the noble work, and in the short period of half a century, their efforts have resulted in the conversion of over 250,000 miserable idolators to the worship of the true God through the Redeemer. The dark rites of Paganism have been abandoned by these multitudes of immortals, for the pure and unfading hopes of Christianity.

Though the novelty of this cause has ceased to move to action, yet there is an undying interest felt by the people of God which is constantly widening and deepning, affording an assurance that soon the heathen shall be reclaimed from their "abominable idolatories" and elevated to that high position of Christian purity, happiness, and usefulness predicted in God's holy word.

This is not the age to give back, love to Christ and gratitude for what he hath wrought for us, demand that we who live in the very dawning of the Milleneal day, should give as freely as we have received.

The motives calling us to the holy conflict are as thrilling as the blast of the warriors trumpet, and should animate every follower of Jesus to use his

utmest endeavors. What can be more inspiring than the predictions of the Prophets, the promises of God, the commission and command of our Divine Master; taken together with the glorious success already secured?

God has evidently directed the attention of the Southern Baptist churches to China and Africa where hundreds of millions are perishing for lack of knowledge.

The Foreign Mission Board of the S. B. Convention has thirty-four missionaries and assistants in those densely populated countries, ten missionaries and six assistants in China to convert 350,000,000 of people, and seven missionaries and twelve assistants to publish the news of salvation to the untold multitudes of benighted Africa. Can we stand unmoved and see these feeble bands bearing the bloodstained banner of the cross to the conflict against these barbarous multitudes; can we hear them implore for aid in the name of Jesus, when pressed hard by these gathering hosts and refuse to pray for them, and send them the large increase of men and means which shall ensure a glorious victory? Will not each child of God say *no*, and act accordingly?

Two of our beloved missionaries, bro. Goodale and sister Wilden, have been called from earthly labor to heavenly repose during the past year.

Among the great who have during the year bowed to the stroke of death, none was greater than Adoniram Judson, whose mortal remains sleep in their Ocean grave. He is gone, but his example of moral sublimity, of pure devotion to the service of God, and noble self-sacrifice for the salvation of the heathen can never die. He is gone up to heaven, and crowds from the cities and jungles of Burmah to the end of time, through his influence and labor shall ascend after him, and stand before the throne of God and the Lamb forever.

O, may the mantle of the ascending Judson fall on us, and his spirit be breathed into our breasts, that we may live as he lived, labor as he labored, and die as he died; and be rewarded with eternal glory such as he now enjoys.

Your Committee recommend the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved, That we will continue to use our influence to secure an annual contribution from every member, white and black of our several churches for this blessed cause.

J. H. DeVOTIE, Chairman.

[D.]

Report of the Committee on Documents.

The Committee have had the query of Sardis church under consideration, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution in answer.

QUERY; What shall we, as Baptists, do with a brother, or member, who sells intoxicating liquors,

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Association that the traffic in ardent spirits as a beverage, is inconsistent with the Christian profession, and that a member of a church continuing in the business after being enlightened by the teachings of the Bible, and seeing the consequences of the unhallowed trade in blood and tears, after proper admonition, should be excluded under the charge of *immoral* and *unchristian conduct*.

The following resolution is offered.

In answer to the query of Fellowship church.

Is it inexpedient for the Pastor and Deacon or Deacons of a church to form a Presbytery and ordain a deacon when sufficient effort, say two or three calls have been made for a Presbytery of ordained ministers and have failed.

Resolved, That although abstractly each church as an independent body, may have a right to ordain its own deacons, without consultation, yet by the fellowship and constitution which bind our churches and associations, it is the duty of churches not to exercise this power without making most earnest efforts to secure advice.

That it is the duty of ministers to attend. We would not say that in no possible circumstances a church would not be justified; but that the precedent would be so dangerous and capable of so much abuse that a church cannot be too careful to avoid it.

The Mount Pleasant church mentions in her letter, the formation of the Sunday School Union Association, at a Convention called for the purpose by the church. We recommend the adoption of the following resolution :

Resolved, That we highly approve of the zeal and efforts manifested by the Mount Pleasant church in behalf of Sabbath Schools, and pray that their effort may be successful. We recommend our churches to do every thing to second the enterprise and send delegates to the meetings.

Two churches, Fellowship and Siloam, petition for the meeting of the next Annual Association.

Brothers James Tubb and Alexander Coker, have been ordained by the Sardis Church.

J. H. DEVOTIE, Chairman,

[E.]

Report of the Committee on the Southern Baptist Publication Society.

This Society has been on former occasions recommended to the affections of the Association. We would here add, that the works with which it supplies the Denomination are of great value. By a system of Colportage, it brings books at the lowest possible charges to the doors of our brethren and our these churches.

The publications issued by the Society have all been of great value. We desire, particularly on this occasion, to call attention to the new Baptist Hymn Book, on the point of being issued by this Society, and edited by the Rev. B. Manly, D. D. and Rev. B. Manly, Jr. From the well known character of its authors, and their eminent qualifications for the task, a work is to be expected more exactly adapted to the wants of our churches, than any which has yet appeared. We, therefore, commend it as well as the Society from which it eminates to the attention and regard of the Association.

J. S. FORD, Chairman.

[F.]

Report on Sabbath Schools.

Your Committee have neither time nor inclination to make a lengthy report on this subject. A few thoughts must suffice. The time is past when it is necessary to attempt by logical argument, to prove the untility of Sabbath Schools, and the great advantages derived therefrom in the proper training of the youthful mind. Practical experience has for many years demonstrated this beyond a doubt; but should there yet be a skeptic, or one who would oppose

or refuse to lend their aid in so laudable an effort, we would say to them as did our Saviour on one occasion to the unbelieving Jews, my works they testify of me, and we feel assured that if they will not be convinced by evidence of this character, they would not believe, though one should arise from the dead.

Your Committee have to regret, however, that amid all the light and knowledge with which we are surrounded, there are those who, in a great measure, neglect the admonition of the wise man. Train up your child in the way he should go, &c.

Look, if you please, at the man who is fond of the chase, with what care and assiduity does he train the dog for usefulness in the future, no pains is spared, no trouble is too great to accomplish the desired end, and thus it is in various other instances of a similar character, while the child who is possessed of a never dying soul and destined for heaven, and immortal glory is left literally to come up itself, exposed to all the evil influences which the ingenuity of Satan can invest and throw around them. How unwise; how inconsistent; yet it is true.

In relation to the progress of the cause, in the bounds of this Association, your Committee is furnished with the following information, (viz);—The Siloam church, Marion, St. Francis Street church, Mobile, New Hope, Antioch, Fellowship, Bethsaida and Mount Pleasant churches, all have Sabbath Schools in rather a flourishing condition. We think it due to the Mount Pleasant church, Tuscaloosa county, to say that she seems to take the lead in this good work, having now not only one, but four schools under the direction or in some measure connected with said church. May her praiseworthy example be followed by all the sister churches until there shall not be one left without a Sabbath School.

All of which is submitted, R. GRAHAM, Chairman,

[G.]

Bible Report.

Your Committee, on the Bible cause, submit the following report:

Of the duty and encouragement to circulate the Scriptures, your Committee would briefly speak.

1. The duty of giving the Bible to all mankind arises from the fact that it is necessary to their salvation; consequently no other book can supply its place.

2. The great destitution of the Scriptures imposes the duty of sending them where they are not now found. In our own country whole neighborhoods of wide extent, are nearly or quite destitute of the word of God. In Foreign lands, entire nations composed of millions of population, have not this great gift of heaven, and know not of its existence.

3. We posess the Bible and the means of furnishing it to others. How then can we be without guilt, if we neglect to send it?

We have great encouragement to engage in this duty. The cheapness of the Scriptures furnishes an encouragement. For the sum of twenty-five cents, a very good Bible can be purchased, and a New Testament for six and a fourth cents. Once the enormous cost of the Bible forbade its circulation among the people. In 1272 a Bible cost £30 sterling. At the price of day labor, at that time, it would require the entire earning of a laboring man for thirteen years, to purchase a single copy of the Scriptures.

The facilities for multiplying and circulating the Scriptures are such as to encourage the work.

The accessibility to the nations of the earth affords another inducement. In the year 1800, the Scriptures were translated into only 50 languages and dialects, spoken by about 200,000,000 of people. Now, they are translated into 200 languages, spoken by 600,000,000. Here, is a wide field inviting us to occupy. This duty is enforced by every conceivable motive that should influence an intelligent being.

In relation to the Bible operations of our own Southern Convention, your Committee regret to say that, these operations are, and have been greatly crippled for want of funds Only about $1,000, have been contributed during the year for the supply of the whole Southern country.

At the last Annual meeting of the Board it was resolved to raise $10,000 for the Home field this year. How much of that sum can, and ought, this Association to raise ? Let each member ask the question, how much ought I to give ?

Your Committee close their report by presenting the following resolution :

Resolved, That each church be recommended to make all reasonable effort to solicit an annual contribution of at least one dime from each member for this object. All of which is submitted.

R. HOLMAN, Chairman.

[H.]

Report of the Committee on Temperance.

The success which has attended the great Temperance movement of the day, affords abundant proof that the efforts being made by the friends of the cause meet with Divine approbation.

The Bible prohibits, if not directly at least indirectly, the use of ardent spirits as a beverage. We are told, "it is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended or is made weak."

Your committee would represent that the cause of temperance has strong claims not only upon the members of the Cahawba Association but upon Baptist everywhere; and, therefore, recomend the following resolution :

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association, it is the duty of every man, and particularly professors of religion, to abstain from the use of ardent spirits as a beverage. E. G. HUCKABEE, Chairman.

[I.]

Report of the Committee on Indian Missions.

The Committee on Indian Missions have had the same under consideration and offer the following report ;

It is quite evident to every reflecting mind that without civilization and the reception of the Gospel the Indians will very soon have perished from the earth. Our missions in proportion to their success will be the immediate means of saving nations from perishing. If the work be neglected only for a few years it will be too late, forever. By such considerations are we called to a vigorous occupation of this field.

We are assured by those best acquainted with the facts, that at present an average of about 20 a month are being added to our churches. We have 8 or 9 native Baptist preachers.

The schools are in a flourishing condition, $100 a year is sufficent for the support of a native preacher.

We commend to the Association, and to the churches, our bro. Davis, so well known for his indefatigable labors in this department of religious benevlence. He is present, and we recommend the Association to invite him to make a short address and lay the claims of the cause before us.

JOHN R. HENDON, Chairman.

[K]

Report of the Committee on Finance.

Your committee on Finance begs leave to report as follows;

RECEIPTS.

Amount for Minutes,	$52 00	Amount for Bible Cause,	$60 00
" for Associational purposes,	36 00	" for Bro. Howard,	55 35
" for Domestic Missions,	41 55	" of former Treasurer,	10 50
" for Foreign Missions,	28 75	" taken up on Sabbath,	52 40
" for Indian Missions,	108 60	" for African Missions,	9 20
			$455 25

WM. N. WYATT, Chairman.

Treasurer's Report.

DR.	*Wm. N. Wyatt, Treasurer,*	CR.
Oct. 22, 1849. Rec'd of Financial Committee for sundry purposes,	$135 75	Am't pd. for printing Minutes, $50 00
March, 1850, Of St. Francis street Baptist church, Mobile,	5 00	Am't paid Clerk, 20 00
Of the African Baptist church, Mobile,	5 00	Am't pd. over to Convention as directed by your body, for Foreign Mission, 13 40
		Am't for Domestic Mission, 17 50
	$145 75	Paid Bible Cause, 17 85
		Paid Beneficiary Howard College, 16 50
		$135 25

Letter of Correspondence.

DEAR BRETHREN:—By Divine favor we have been permitted to hold our Thirty-third Anniversary Meeting. We had an unusually large number of delegates. The epistles from the Churches were of varied interest. Many of them cheered our hearts with pleasing accounts of the gracious out-pourings of the Spirit, and the additions of souls unto the Lord. All the objects of Christian enterprise are growing in favor with the Churches.

Our present session has been one of delightful harmony. It has been a feast of fat things. All seemed to feel, "that it is good to be here." It was acknowledged by all to be one of the most interesting meetings they ever attended. Brethren took a comprehensive and practical view of the claims of the gospel. The same amount of love and zeal in the Mission cause has never been manifested at any previous meeting of the body.

Our total membership is 4,497; baptisms the past year, 317; gain, 199; ministers, 23.

Our next meeting will be held with Fellowship Church, Perry county, commencing Saturday before the third Lord's day in October, 1851. We most cordially invite the presence of your delegates and brethren generally.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. AMEN.

W. S. MIMS, Clerk. A. C. McCRAW, Moderator.

Table of Correspondence,

RECEIVED.

ASSOCIATIONS	DOCUMENTS.	MESSENGERS.	MODERATORS.	CLERKS.
Tuscaloosa,	Let. & Min.		R. Dodson,	M. D. J. Slade.
Bethlehem,	Let. & Min.		A. Travis,	H. Lee.
Mulbury,	Minutes.	Wm. L. Cochran and Gandy.		

RETURNED.

ASSOCIATIONS.	DOCUMENTS.	MESSENGERS.
Tuscaloosa,	Let. & Min.	Elders N. Haggard, J. J. Haggard, J. E. Sumner, John Sansing, and Bro. B. P. Hill.
Bethlehem,	Letter & Min.	Elders T. F. Curtis, R. Holman,
Mulbury,	Letter & Min.	Elders John Sansing, John E. Sumners, H. P. Griffin, and Brother C. F. Clabough,
Alabama,	Letter & Min.	Elders R. Holman, J. H. DeVotie,
Bethel,	Letter & Min.	Elders R. Holman, J. H. DeVotie,
Union,	Letter & Min.	Elder J. Dennis, Breth. E. C. Norris, F. G. Stokes.
Columbus,	Letter & Min.	Eld's T. F. Curtis, R. Graham, Bro. W. B. Lawson.

Received of Wm. S. Miree, Clerk of the Cahawba Association, Fifty-two Dollars for printing 1,200 *copies of the above Minutes.*
March 1st, 1851. *A. W. CHAMBLISS.*

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CHURCHES FOR 1850.

DISTRICTS.	CHURCHES.	COUNTIES.	MINISTERS IN PASTORAL SUPPLY.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Dis. by Letter.	Excommunicated.	Restored.	Deceased.	Total in Fellowship.	Minute Fund.	Associational Fund.	Bible Cause.	Indian Missions.	Domestic Missions.	Foreign Missions.	Af. Missions.	TOTAL.
1st *District.*	Bethel,	Bibb,	C. J. Crews,	8						55	1 50	1 00			4 30			$2 50
	Mount Gilead,	Bibb,	Henry P. Griffin,	15	1	3				51	1 00	2 00						10 80
	Mount Zion,	Bibb,	Henry P. Griffin,	8	3	8				39	1 00	1 00			7 30			9 80
	Hejsaah,	Perry,	John Sansing,		2	1				32	1 00	1 00				50		2 00
	Pisgah,	Perry,	John S. Ford,	43	5	13			1	175	2 50	2 50						5 00
	Pilgrim's Rest,	Perry,	C. J. Crews,	15	4		1			82	1 00	1 50						2 50
	Friendship,	Perry,	John Sansing,			4				31	1 00	50						1 50
	Cahaba Valley,	Bibb,	Noah Haggard,	50	4	9	8	3	1	156	3 00	1 00						4 00
	Concord,	Perry,	John Sansing,	2	1	1	1			12	2 00	1 00						3 00
	Oakmulgee,	Perry,	A. G. McCraw,	25	6	6	2			25	3 00							3 00
	Providence,	Perry,	W. Wiles,	12	6	1	6	3		179	1 00	2 00						3 00
	Shiloh,	Perry,	D. Lloyd,		3	8			1	153	2 00	1 00						3 00
	Fellowship,	Perry,	John Sansing,			3				94	1 50	1 50						3 00
	Selma,	Dallas,	C. M. Breaker,	7	2	3	1	1	2	154	1 50							3 00
	Salem,	Dallas,	No lett. or delegate.	50	22	5	1		1	120								1 50
	Mt. Eden,	Perry,	Russel Holman,	Put down as last year.														
	Liberty,	Dallas,	John Dennis,	5	3	3	1		1	47	1 00	1 00						2 00
	Canaan,	Perry,	Not Stated.							138	1 50	1 50		11 40	13 00	11 00		38 00
	Fire Flat,	Perry,	No letter or delegate.	Put down as last year.						11								
	Fellowship,	Perry,	John S. Ford,	13	3	2				65								
	Br. Creek,	Perry,	John S. Ford,	23	3	2	1			221	3 00	1 00						4 00
	Hopewell,	Perry,	J. H. DeVotie,	11	10	9	4	1		159	4 00							
	Siloam,	Perry,	C. J. Crews,		1	1	1			545	4 00	4 00			13 25	25 9	50	44 00
	Union,	Perry,	John S. Ford,		1	1	4			62	1 00	1 00						2 00
	Mount Pleasant,	Perry,	John S. Ford,		3	3	1			83	2 00	1 00						3 00
	Sardis,	Perry,	Alexander Coker,	2	1	2	1			79	2 00	1 00						3 00
	St. Francis Street,	Mobile,	Thos. G. Lyon,	16	1	1	1			146	1 00							
	African Church,	Mobile,	No Pastor or statistics.	Put down as last year.						343								
	Antioch,	Greene,	C. F. Sturges,							56	1 00	1 00						2 00
	Salem,	Greene,	Thos. Chilton,	No letter or delegate.						417								
	Mount Pleasant,	Greene,	C. F. Sturges,	2	4	3	3		1	53	1 50	1 50						3 00
	Bethsaida,	Tuskaloosa,	C. F. Sturges,			2	2			57	1 50	1 50						3 00
	Bethel,	Greene,	M. B. Clements.							118	1 50	1 50						3 00
	Mount Hebron,	Greene,	J. E. Sumner,	1	2	3	1			37	1 00	1 00						3 00
	New Hope,	Perry,	J. E. Sumner,	3	1	4	1			65	1 50	1 00						3 00
	Newbern,	Greene,	Thos. Chilton.	No statistics.						2	2 00	1 00						3 00
				317	119	170	58	23	23	4497	52 00	36 00		14 50	41 50	29 35	9 50	183 50

NOTE.—Since our last Association, Brethren John J. Haggard, James Tubb and Alexander Coker have been ordained to the Ministry, and Brethren Henry Kirbo and Jabez Brassel, Licentiates. Brethren James Tubb and Alexander Coker of Sardis church. Perry county; Brethern John J Haggard and Henry Kirbo of Cahawba Valley Baptist church, Bibb county; Bro. Jabez Brassel of Pisgah church, Perry county, and one member from Oakmulgee, received by voucher, that is places in the line of those received by Letter, and one from Mobile.